

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : In some cases, the schools were voluntarily closed by the managers themselves. In some cases, the schools were asked to close because they did not satisfy the conditions imposed. I have got here a complete list of schools showing the reasons for closing each. In some cases, there was over-lapping ; in some cases the management was unsatisfactory, etc.

President : You may place that list on the table of the Secretary.

Mr. K. S. Joseph : Could not the help of the Department be given to them for putting them right ?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : In many cases, help and advice were given by the Department. But many schools were closed either because they were unnecessary or because there was over-lapping.

Mr. K. S. Joseph : Will the member be pleased to explain the term 'unnecessary' ?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : In some places there are other schools serving the same area with plenty of accommodation and where more pupils could be accommodated.

Mr. K. S. Joseph : Does the member suggest that there are too many schools in the State ?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : There are too many schools in particular areas in the State.

Maintenance staff attached to the Alleppey Pier and Steam Winch.

107. ***Mr. N. Narayana Kurup :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether they have received any representation from the maintenance staff attached to the Alleppey Pier and Steam Winch praying that their conditions of service may be improved ; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, what action has been taken thereon ?

Mr. C. Kumara Das (Secretary to Government) : (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is being looked into.

Coir Trade Committee.

108. ***Mr. N. Narayana Kurup :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether they have constituted a Coir Trade Committee ;

(b) what is the function of such Committee ;

(c) whether there is any in the Committee to represent the producer of coir yarn ;